

Literacy Team Meeting Notes

August 24, 2011

Attendees: Dr. Gerri Martín, Frankie Lynn Tucker, Lela Baldwin, Laurie Pruitt, Bridgett Craddock, Stan Winborne, Beth Cook, Mary Clark, Ann Grey Newcomb, and Maria Woodson Dann.

Recorder: Ann Grey Newcomb

Startup and Housekeeping:

Dr. Martín shared that the agenda for today is to recap (12-K) the experiences that constituted the first 2 days of the CCSS/ES trainings.

If members of this team have topics for discussion at monthly Literacy Team meetings, email them to Dr. Martín beforehand.

All members of the Literacy Team are either facilitators or approvers of professional development using the new system, G.R.E.A.T. Training for the use of this system will take place Monday, 8/29, at Central Office at 9:30 for members with names beginning with A-H, and at 1:30 for members with names beginning with I-Z.

Initial Common Core Professional Development Trainings (Days 1 & 2)

Stan Winborne reported that K-12 went well and feedback has been extremely positive. CTE, Science, Math, Social Studies and Art sessions went well. There is a Wiki Space set up for all content areas, as well as a "Course Page," and teachers who attended the two-day session received instruction in logging and accessing this space. Different courses made different amounts of progress, but all in all it went well and Stan was pleased with the results. He was especially happy with the consistency of the format for the pacing, language, and delivery of the sessions. Perhaps one area for improvement is to consider how support personnel should work with grade level teams in order to increase cooperation and collaboration in the session that will carry over upon return to their schools.

Frankie shared that she heard positive feedback regarding the fact that all members of our faculties were brought together to hear a consistent message.

Beth Cook and Bridgett Craddock are responsible for the upcoming CCSS/ES module development, RBT (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy), which is scheduled for Friday, 10/28.

All members should return the thumb drives used for the initial two Days of Professional Development. Go ahead and add any additional resources used or created for the initial trainings.

A makeup session will be scheduled for teachers who missed the initial two days or portions thereof (grade-level specific).

Laurie Pruitt shared that the EC teachers in her session noted that great attention should be paid to the creation of IEP's during this school year, 2011-12, since the standards that will be addressed in the 2012-13 school year will be Common Core State Standards and Essential Standards only as opposed to NC SCOS. In her session, the Math teachers created the transition document and began working on the Curriculum Map. The Social Studies teachers spent a great deal of time on their Curriculum Maps. Laurie found it very helpful that a Principal attended her session and was available to address some sticky questions and opposition to change.

Mary Clark was pleased with the discussion and work with Middle School and thankful for Julie Finch's attendance and participation. They seemed to have a good understanding of the structural setup of the standards by the afternoon and then got a good amount of work done.

Lela Baldwin shared that there was a bit of disagreement in the Arts session. They were able, however, to see that the work they did together revealed a consistency for K-12 Arts that enables them to use the same instrument to pace their work at Elementary, Middle, and High. Perhaps it will be more efficient to split these groups by grade level a bit earlier in the day for future trainings.

Dr. Martín shared that GCS is now two days ahead of most districts in relation to the statewide implementation of Common Core State Standards and Essential Standards.

The Directors and Dr. Martín will travel to Nash/Rocky Mount Tuesday for CCSS/ES training and bring the ideas back to the RttT team. We will determine after Tuesday whether this gathering offers support to us as the RttT PD team and then decide if we want to participate in this gathering in the future.

Lela Baldwin shared that many teacher leaders really stepped up sharing additional work and resources. Teachers shared excitement with the prospect of working with their grade levels on the future CCSS/ES. A Wiki was created for K-5 and only 35 of several hundred teachers have registered. Lela will follow up with a second delivery of this information.

Bridgett Craddock reported that 3rd grade worked very hard and requested more time to work on the maps. Ann Grey Newcomb reported that 2nd grade liked the opportunity to work as a grade. Maria Woodson Dann reported that 1st grade collaborated well together and generated thoughtful conversations. Frankie Tucker reported that in kindergarten great strides were made in the understanding of teaching generalizations as opposed to topics and the vertical alignment of the new curriculum.

Dr. Martin determined that we will return to the same school site (even if the room changes), and we (the RttT PD Team) will work with the same grade level groups.

Regarding assessment, Lela Baldwin shared the plan for K-2 teachers. Each will be assigned objectives for which they will write assessment questions. The Coaches and Lela will then create countywide assessments using those questions.

Frankie Tucker shared the Middle School training syllabus that is made up of eight topics. Book rooms are not ready for teachers to do guided reading. Mary has northern dates on Mon and southern dates on Tuesday. Several are content area trainings based on literacy framework that fits them.

Laurie Pruitt will co-deliver the trainings with Mary Clark and Beth Cook will share the dates and training topics with all four Middle School Principals tomorrow, the first day of school. She will follow with an email copy of the syllabus.

Frankie then shared the course schedule for the Elementary Balanced Literacy implementation plan. Dr. Martín decided to fund three ½ days for substitute coverage for each teacher enrolled in one of the initial courses of Balanced Literacy. The thoughts of the team were that this would improve implementation as compared to the original plan of fifteen total two-hour trainings after school for the following reasons:

- Teachers will get the big picture and reach a basic level of implementation much earlier in the year. This will more rapidly build capacity in teachers new to the profession and teachers new to a grade span and correlate with faster growth in student proficiency and achievement.

- Coaches will have the time during the day to better serve teachers via in-class modeling and coaching in areas to include framework components, lesson planning, teacher reflection and assessment.

- Teachers will more readily embrace the Balanced Literacy framework and teacher buy-in will improve implementation.

- Coaches will have more time to build capacity in Building Level Administrators in order to increase the number and quality of the accountability measures included in the Balanced Literacy Administrative Course scheduled for this year.

The Elementary Coaches and Literacy Specialist will meet Tuesday, 8/30, to revise the course schedule and syllabi.

The Literacy Team will meet again September 20th at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at Central Office.